THIRD DAY AS A COUPLE.

Okay, say "ahh."

Ahh.

TENTH DAY.

The moon sure is beautiful tonight, is it not?

I don't know. It's pretty damn cloudy.

15TH DAY.

Hey! Slow down!

SPLOSH

Unaaah!

SPLASH

SPLASH

SPLASH

SPLASH

SPLASH

19TH DAY.

トル

GRAB

WHOA ?!

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I'M WEARING A SKIRT?!

THIS IS HOW IT IS IN THE MANGA.

RAGH-!

D-DON'T WORRY, PRINCESS. YOU'RE NOT HEAVY AT ALL.

THAT LINE ISN'T IN THE MANGA!

RAGH

THEY SURE AREN'T ACTING LIKE A COUPLE.

IN FACT, THEY'RE BICKERING EVEN MORE OFTEN NOW.

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

ASPIRING VTUBER IKO KIRINO

ASPIRING SINGER RIKKA INOHANA

IF THEY'RE BICKERING MORE OFTEN THAN BEFORE...

WELL...

ASPIRING-ANNOUNCER SHINOBU UZUKI

...DOESN'T THAT JUST MEAN THERE'S LESS DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM NOW?

Tune In to the Midnight Heart

Finding the girl behind the voice.

20TH DAY.

THE AUDITION IS TOMORROW.

WE'VE PERFECTLY ACTED OUT THE MANGA'S STORY FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS.

DO YOU HAVE A BETTER UNDER-STANDING OF YOUR ROLE NOW?

NO IDEA.

FWP

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO STAND-OFFISH?

AT LEAST LOOK AT ME.

WE DID MOST OF THE EVENTS THE HEROINE WENT THROUGH FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS.

WE DID THE BOAT RIDE SCENE, THE FEEDING SCENE, AND EVEN THE PRINCESS CARRY ONE...

BA-DUMP

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE LAST CHAPTER'S K-K-K...

BA-DUMP

KISS!

THE WAY THIS IS GOING, WE MIGHT ACTUALLY KISS FOR REAL!

NO WAY... SHOULD I REALLY JUST GO FOR IT?

WHAT DO I DO?! MY LIPS ARE ALL CHAPPED RIGHT NOW!

I NEED TO BRUSH MY TEETH AT LEAST...

OH NO! I'M ALREADY BELIEVING THAT WE'LL KISS FOR REAL!

WAS THIS... HIS GOAL ALL ALONG?!

HE JUST WANTS TO KISS ME! HIS "COACHING" IS ALL JUST AN EXCUSE!

チラ…
GLANCE

THEY ALL JUST WANT TO MAKE WOMEN DANCE TO THEIR TUNE...

UGH! DAMN IT! THIS IS WHY I CAN'T STAND MEN!

MUMBLE
フ〃〃
MUMBLE
フ〃〃
MUMBLE
フ〃〃

NO...
EVEN I CAN TELL AFTER SPENDING THESE THREE WEEKS WITH HIM.

HE'S READ THE MANGA MANY MORE TIMES THAN I HAVE...

AND HE WAS TOTALLY IN CHARACTER AS THE HERO.

HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT HELPING ME GET BETTER.

HE'S ANNOYING, BUT I CAN'T DENY HE'S GOOD AT HIS JOB.

RAGH

Not when I have to deal with you!

Can't you put more heart into it?!

MY ACTING HAS GOTTEN WAY BETTER, TOO.

RAGH

I KNEW IT. HE'S TOTALLY GOING TO SAY IT.

RIGHT... THIS IS ALL JUST PRACTICE IN THE END.

I CAN TELL FROM MILES AWAY!

"NOW YOU JUST NEED TO PRACTICE FOR THE KISS."

ALL RIGHT... NOW YOU JUST NEED TO...

A LITTLE KISS IS NOTHING.

IT'S ANNOYING, BUT THIS IS PRACTICE, SO...

POP

...I JUST GOTTA DO IT...

FWIP

HUH ?!!

NOW YOU JUST NEED TO TAKE A BREAK TO PREPARE FOR THE AUDITION.

WHAT KIND OF MAN DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?

BUT YOU WERE SO INTO THE WHOLE COUPLE THING!

OF COURSE NOT.

WE'RE NOT PRACTICING THE KISS SCENE?!!

YOU SHOULD SAVE THAT FOR SOMEONE...

...YOU'RE ACTUALLY IN LOVE WITH.

I got top scores on my exams.

I'M FAR FROM STUPID, THOUGH.

すたすたすたすたすた

THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD

YOU'LL REGRET THIS YOUR WHOLE LIFE!

UGH! YOU STUPID IDIOT!

HIME-KAWA.

HAVE SOME FAITH IN YOURSELF.

I KNOW YOU CAN ACE THE AUDITION.

PATCH

I DID HAVE A BIT OF FUN...

...DURING THESE PAST THREE WEEKS. JUST A TINY BIT!

IT'S JUST A TINY BIT, OKAY?

?

I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.

SWIP SWIP

GOOD LUCK!

THE NEXT WEEK.

I DIDN'T PASS.

PANT はっ PANT はっ PANT はっ?

HOW? MY CURRICULUM WAS PERFECT...

DID YOU SLIP UP OR SOME-THING?

ドドドドド

THUD

WHOA?!!

What?!

O-OH...

Well, there you have it.

THEY REFUSED TO GIVE THE GO-AHEAD FOR THE ANIME UNLESS THIS ONE GIRL WAS CAST.

THERE WAS AN UNEXPECTED DEMAND FROM THE AUTHOR.

I'M SORRY... IF ONLY I WAS A BIT MORE COMPETENT...

I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING.

FLOP

I'M PARTLY AT FAULT, TOO.

BUT HOW?

I SHOULD PROBABLY TRY TO CHEER HIM UP

I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO BERATE ME INSTEAD.

HE'S ACTUALLY FEELING GUILTY ABOUT THIS.

THIS SCENE REALLY PACKS AN EMOTIONAL PUNCH!

SO, SHE PRETENDED TO BRUSH DIRT OFF OF HIM...

SHE WANTED TO HUG HIM, BUT DIDN'T WANT OTHERS TO FIND OUT ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP.

I JUST BRUSHED SOME DIRT OFF OF YOU.
ANYWAY, I'm GOING HOME.

DID YOU DO SOMETHING JUST NOW?
UHM?

HIME-KAWA...
ARE YOU ACTUALLY IN LOVE WITH ME?
YOU KISSED ME JUST NOW, DIDN'T YOU?
WAIT!
GRAB
YET YOU STILL KISSED ME ANYWAY.
SORRY IF I'M JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS, BUT...
I TOLD YOU TO SAVE YOUR KISS FOR SOMEONE YOU TRULY LOVE...
IT WAS...
A RECREATION OF THAT REALLY EMOTIONAL SCENE YOU MENTIONED, WASN'T IT?
I COULD TELL BASED ON YOUR BREATHING AND POSTURE.

SLAM

HAD TO LEARN JUDO

DON'T GO AND DELUDE YOURSELF, DUMB-ASS!!!

I WAS JUST TRYING TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER...

PULL

PEEK
ヒョコ…
WHAT WENT DOWN IN HERE?
WH-WHAT HAP-PENED?!
BWAM
I HATE YOU !!!
WHOA!
YAMA-BUKI-KUN?!
ALL BECAUSE OF MY FOOLISH HUBRIS.
I'M NOW A HATED MAN…
DID YOU MISS A PENALTY KICK DURING A SOCCER GAME OR SOME-THING?
IS HE SO DISTRAUGHT THAT HE'S KNEELING IN HERE? DOES THAT JUST HAPPEN TO BOYS SOMETIMES?
HMMM…
I THINK SHE ACTUALLY LIED ABOUT HATING YOU.
ZING
DID YOU OFFEND HER SOME-HOW?
SHAKE わな
WELL, YOU SEE…
わな SHAKE

WELL, SHE'S KIND OF A HOTHEAD, YOU SEE.

SHE THREW ME TO THE GROUND WITH ALL HER MIGHT, THOUGH.

WHEN SHE'S EMBARRASSED, SHE'D TRY TO HIDE IT BEHIND HER OUT-BURSTS...

...BUT SHE'S SUCH A BAD LIAR, YOU CAN SEE THROUGH IT RIGHT AWAY.

WHEN NENE-CHAN IS LYING...

REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU BEFORE?

BECAUSE IT'S SUPER OBVIOUS...

RIGHT. YOU CAN TELL WHEN SHE'S LYING WITH JUST A GLANCE, RIGHT?

CHAPTER 5: NENE HIMEKAWA'S EARS TELL ALL

BZZT BZZT BZZT BZZT

第五話 日黄川寧々は耳に喪る

CHAPTER 5: NENE HIMEKAWA'S EARS TELL ALL

BZZT BZZT BZZT

HUH? I THINK I MIGHT HAVE A BAD CONNECTION.

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

PFT

HEH HEH HEH. THIS TAKES ME BACK.

YOU HAD IT ROUGH BACK IN THOSE DAYS, TOO, DIDN'T YOU?

一年後

YEARS LATER.

...WERE REALLY FUN FOR ME.

ARISU-KUN. THE TWO YEARS I SPENT AFTER YOU SHOWED UP THAT DAY...

BROAD-CASTING ROOM (TEMP.)

YOU TALKED TO A GIRL...

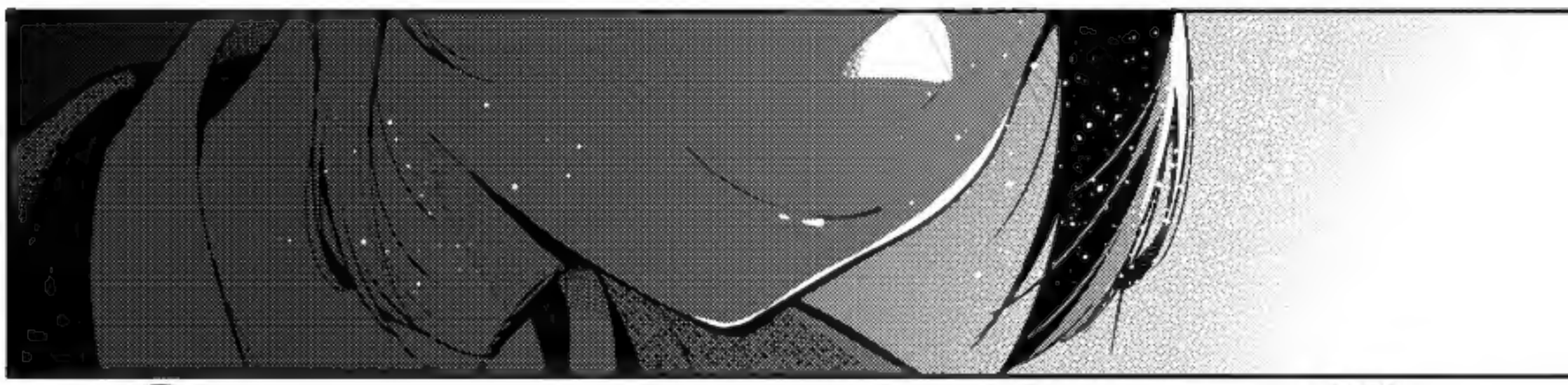
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR, USING A STRING TELEPHONE.

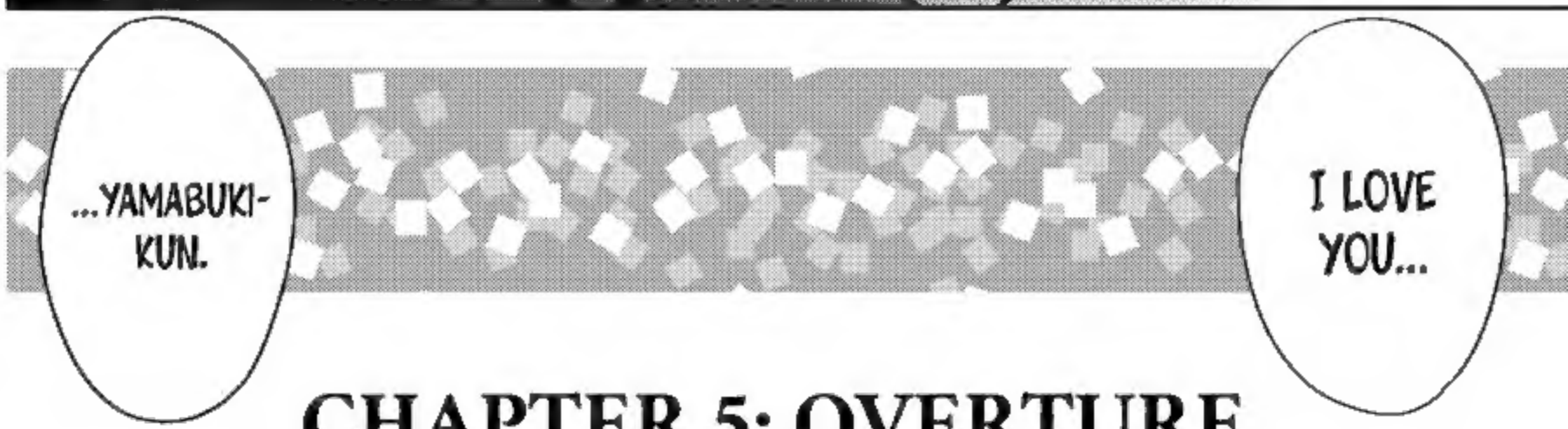
OH, RIGHT! DO YOU REMEMBER THAT ONE TIME?

IT WAS SPORTS DAY DURING OUR SECOND YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL.

I WONDER IF YOU NOTICED BACK THEN.

THAT WAS ACTUALLY ME.





CHAPTER 5: OVERTURE